

GRADUATE PROGRAM: Philosophy and Learning Outcomes

Core Commitments of Graduate Programs: Ozark Christian College's graduate-level program is committed to developing a transformational education community, centered on scripture, spiritual formation, community-building, and ministry.

Ozark Christian College's legacy is rooted in biblical training, where scripture is our textbook and foundational for all of life. The graduate program preserves and extends this commitment through its emphasis on transformation guided by biblical truths to spiritually-form the individual into an ambassador for Christ who creates, renews, and develops Christian communities that intentionally bridge the gospel to every nation, people, gender, and ethnicity.

Thus, these four commitments are core to the graduate program.

- **Scripture:** Regardless of the topic taught or the course taken, the graduate program will orient, challenge, and extend the student's knowledge, understanding, and ability to engage Scripture.
- **Spiritual Formation:** In order to "love our neighbor" we need to be formed in the image of Christ. Thus, in every course and every interaction, intentional elements of spiritual formation will be inserted to develop and mature each student.
- **Community-Building:** As Scripture teaches us, the goal of spiritual formation is for the body of Christ. Community-building aspects, then, will be the zenith of educational goals for each degree challenging the students to engage culture, appreciate diversity, and build up the community of people through Christ's love.
- **Ministry:** The goal is to take Christ to "every tribe, tongue, people, and nation" (Rev 5:9). Taking the Gospel to the "ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) necessitates the previous three core commitments, so that scriptural principles that shape the individual and community will result in life-giving ministry, translating what Christ did for us into a Spirit-empowered ministry for others.

Learning Goal Graduates will be grounded in Scripture, growing in Christlikeness, practicing cultural discernment, and vocationally prepared for Christian service.

Students grounded in Scripture will know and value the content of the Bible as well as the principles of its study and application. Students will integrate this instruction to form the foundation of a comprehensive and cohesive worldview informing all aspects of life.

Students growing in Christlikeness will develop their personal faith and devotion. They will grow in their knowledge and appreciation of God and will see their lives in relation to his purposes. Furthermore, they will learn principles and strategies that will allow them to continue to grow throughout their lives.

Students practicing cultural discernment will appreciate, interact with, and analyze culture in its various manifestations. Students will be committed to and will love people within their context, regardless of their particular culture setting.

Students vocationally prepared for Christian service will be prepared to enter the workplace. To this end, they will be trained in the foundational principles, the current issues, the effective strategies, and the skills for success in their ministries or professions.

Master of Arts in Biblical Ministry Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to...

1. Interpret Scripture through interaction with historical analysis and theological inquiry, in order to offer contextual application.
2. Engage in spiritual practices for continued maturity in Christ.
3. Demonstrate cultural agility through appreciation of multicultural and multi-generational contexts.
4. Implement scriptural principles to build Christian community.

The Master of Arts in Biblical Ministry includes three concentrations:

1. Biblical Studies: Learn to study the Bible on the deepest level. For students who want to dive deeper into God's Word by learning languages and wrestling with scriptural interpretation. Study the Word in a challenging way. This is deep engagement with God's Word.

2. Strategic Leadership: Become an agile Christian leader in a church or nonprofit. For Christian servants who find themselves in a variety of leadership contexts. Learn to lead through team-building, conflict, organizational threats, and more. This concentration develops strategic, biblical leaders across cultures and generations.

3. Spiritual Formation: Be disciplined to disciple others. For students called to disciple others by first learning to be disciplined themselves through God's Word and in partnership with his Spirit. Learn to biblically partner with the Holy Spirit in the inner work in order to do the outer work of healing others in Christ.

CONCENTRATION: Biblical Studies

The Biblical Studies concentration is designed to empower students to study the biblical text at the deepest level. The course of study facilitates interaction with the biblical languages, hermeneutical methodologies, exegesis of Scripture, and modern studies essential for the construction of the socio-historical setting of the text.

Biblical Studies Concentration Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to...

1. Exegete texts using biblical language-based commentaries and other resources.
2. Dialog about issues in biblical studies debated and discussed by generations of scholars.
3. Utilize biblical interpretation for direct application to ministry settings.

CONCENTRATION: Spiritual Formation

The Spiritual Formation concentration is designed to guide students in their own inner transformation through Christ so that they can, in turn, help guide others to healing in Jesus. The

course of study unearths the process of Christian formation through biblical, theological, and historical inquiries into Spirit-centered transformation of the individual, the church, and the world.

Spiritual Formation Concentration Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to...

1. Identify the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the spiritually maturing believer.
2. Integrate spiritual pathways and practices for individuals and local Christian communities.
3. Disciple others through relationships and spiritual practices.

CONCENTRATION: Strategic Leadership

The Strategic Leadership concentration is designed to develop a biblical centered agility in students called to lead in a variety of ministry settings (e.g., churches, non-profits, para-church organizations). The course of study navigates the unpredictable nature of leadership contexts through examinations of conflict, team-building, crisis settings, multi-cultural dynamics, and the importance of self-awareness for Christian leaders.

Strategic Leadership Concentration Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to...

1. Lead an organization through navigating both internal and external change dynamics.
2. Engage difficult leadership (or organizational) situations with Christian principles.
3. Identify the value and challenges of multi-cultural settings from a leadership perspective.